



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission



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<http://nyc.gov/landmarks/>

facsimile
TRANSMITTAL

*Copies Josh
Joe
hand out to me*

To: Pat Zedalis, Chief Executive
Division of School Facilities, Board of Education
Fax #: (718) 391-6020
From: Margo Klein
Re: P.S. 109, Manhattan
Date: May 24, 2001
Pages: 11 (including cover)

2001 MAY 29 PM 2:33
DIRECTOR OF CAPITAL
ADMINISTRATION

As per Ronda Wist, following please find letters of support for the designation of P.S. 109, Manhattan. I will be sending hard copies of these letters via mail. Please do not hesitate to call Ms. Wist at (212) 487-6820 if you have any further questions. Thank you.

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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COMMITTEE

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TAD, MBB, RW

Research Transition

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Congress of the United States
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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

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PLEASE RESPOND TO
OFFICE NUMBER

March 26, 2001

Ms. Jennifer J. Raab
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
City of New York
100 Old Slip
New York, NY 10005

Dear Commissioner Raab:

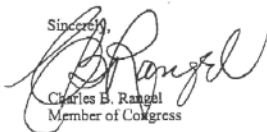
I am writing to you to express my strong support for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate Public School 109 as a New York City Landmark. At this time, P.S. 109 has been placed on the New York State Register of Historic Places, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized this school as one of the eleven most endangered historic places in the nation.

This is a century-old, Gothic style school building located within my Congressional district that was designed by New York architect, C.B.J. Snyder, with features that could never be replicated. It is a school where many East Harlem residents have received their education and where future generations could go to school, as well. This building is a beautiful and lasting symbol of New York City's rich cultural heritage that has served this community and hopefully will continue to serve this community. The old school is a highlight of New York's history and is a neighborhood landmark that should be preserved.

By achieving landmark status, P.S. 109, through various efforts, can reopen its doors and once again serve the children of East Harlem. The renovation of this school will provide much needed additional classroom space in Community School District 4.

Once again, I wholeheartedly support the designation of P.S. 109 as a New York City Landmark.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

CBR/mn

RW, MBB, TRD

JOHN D. SABINI
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25TH DISTRICT

0 DISTRICT OFFICE
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April 20, 2001

P. PS109

Jennifer Raab, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
100 Old Slip
New York, NY 10005

Dear Chairman Raab:

At the urging of the East Harlem community, I am writing to request that LPC consider landmark status for P.S. 109, an architectural gem that has been seriously abused but is thankfully still standing tall.

As you will recall, P.S. 109 and other historic school buildings were the subject of a hearing conducted by the Landmarks Subcommittee in 1999. At that time, the unfortunate history of P.S. 109 was brought to light. After the school was shuttered in 1995 due to declining enrollment and dilapidated conditions, the Board of Education, having determined renovation to be too costly, hired a contractor to remove valuable architectural elements from the circa 1895 building prior to demolition. Sadly, many of P.S. 109's architectural elements were stripped from the facade at this time. But as support for preserving the school swelled, demolition plans were halted. P.S. 109 now stands at a crossroads, its future unclear.

What is clear, however, is the school's architectural and historical significance. Despite the architectural salvaging of exterior elements, the building remains an elegant reminder of a bygone era and a symbol of the philosophy that handsome schools uplift those students who attend them.

P.S. 109 was one of many designed by Charles B. J. Snyder, the Board of Ed's chief architect from 1891 to 1922. His most notable creation, which P.S. 109 has been likened to, is the John Jay College building on Tenth Avenue. P.S. 109 is no less grand. In the words of the *New York Times*, the school's "street-facing courtyard serves as an inviting, gracious entrance and a cupola functions as a beacon in a neighborhood of humdrum buildings."

- The school has been added to both the New York State and Federal Registers of Historic Places. I urge LPC to join in recognizing the importance of P.S. 109 by granting the building landmark status.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Sabini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

JOHN D. SABINI
Chair, Subcommittee
on Landmarks

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

P.S. 109 - Terri
MAB
RW

CONSTITUTION
BANKING
JUDICIARY
RULES

R: P.S. 109

March 28, 2001

Ms. Jennifer J. Raab
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
City of New York
100 Old Slip
New York, NY 10005

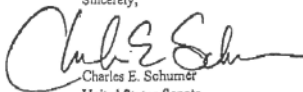
Dear Commissioner Raab:

I am writing to express my support for the Landmark Preservation Commission to designate Public School 109 as a New York City Landmark.

For many years, the community of East Harlem has fought to protect their neighborhood against the deterioration of this facility. Local leaders have shared with me their concerns about the lack of assistance they have had to save this important landmark not only in terms of its architectural significance but the important educational service the school has provided to the young people of East Harlem.

I ask that you make every effort within the jurisdiction of your department to ensure that the interest of all parties are protected and that the designation of P.S. 109 becomes a reality. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Rodney Capel of my staff at 757 Third Avenue, New York, New York, 10017. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate

THE HARRIS COMPANY
1950 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10029
876 - 5168

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13 March 2001

Ms. Gwen Goodwin
Coalition to Save P. S. 109
152 East 100th Street
New York, N. Y. 10029

Re: Letter of Appreciation

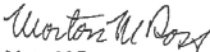
Dear Ms. Goodwin,

As long time neighbors of P. S. 109, and owners of many of the buildings in the area, we deeply appreciate your successful efforts to save this beautiful building. Not only is it a beautiful and more and more unique structure in and of itself, but it stands in the midst of an open area of light, greenery and playgrounds.

We hope you'll pass on our gratitude to Ms. Jennifer Raab as well for her work in this instance. New York is lucky to have her as chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission in these days when so many architecturally and esthetically unique buildings and neighborhoods are at risk.

We hope that P. S. 109 will quickly be officially designated as the New York City Landmark that it is and subsequently refurbished and re-opened for the children of our vibrant and growing neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,



Morton M. Ross
President
THE HARRIS COMPANY

Carnegie Hill Neighbors, Inc.

P.O. Box 6479
New York, NY 10128
Tel. 212-996-5520
Fax 212-996-8311

February 23, 2001

Ms. Gwen Goodwin
Coalition to Save P.S. 109
152 East 100th Street
New York, NY 10029

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

Carnegie Hill Neighbors supports you on the Coalition's effort to bring landmark status to P.S. 109.

As you well know, P.S. 109, located on East 99th Street in Manhattan, was designed by C.B.J. Snyder, who, according to the Landmark Preservation Commission's own guide, "was responsible for many of the city's finest public schools" of a century ago.

We are impressed that this imposing five-story structure still presents, despite its recent partial dismantling, an elegant building in Collegiate Gothic style, including copper clad conical towers, dormer windows with pinnacles and crockets, and large lower windows and doorways framed in a neo-Gothic manner. Most of P.S. 109's distinctive architectural features remain intact or have been saved. It is an entirely free-standing structure, easily appreciated by passersby from all sides, even at a distance — unlike some similar C.B.J. Snyder schools on more cramped and less visible sites.

Carnegie Hill Neighbors believes that PS 109 should receive landmark status. To us, the school is a very fine example of Snyder's style, and as a public school building from the end of the 19th century, it deserves historic designation.

Lo van der Valk
President

David Balderston
VP Landmarks



East Harlem Coalition To Improve Our Public Schools

The Rev. Norman C. Eddy
c/o East Harlem Urban Center
119 East 108th Street
New York, New York 10029
Phone: (212) 722-8147
Messages: (212) 831-8506
FAX: (212) 289-2634

February 16, 2001

Jennifer J. Raab
Commissioner
Landmark Preservation Commission
100 Old Slip
New York, New York 10005

Dear Commissioner Raab:


On behalf of Rev. Norman C. Eddy, the Coordinator of The Coalition to Improve Our Public Schools, (who is currently recuperating from surgery) the officers and volunteer members of the Coalition fully support the listing of P. S. 109 as a New York City Landmark. Listing P. S. 109 as a City Landmark insures that when it is renovated future generation of schoolchildren will be served

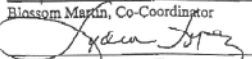
Continuing the struggle to save this treasure is reinforced just by standing in front of P. S. 109 and looking at the building's H-shape design, the beautiful terracotta, and the exquisite gothic style ornamentation surrounding all the roof dormers; features seen only on C.B. Snyder schools. One is struck with amazement at how beauty can withstand time.

In keeping with the saving of P. S. 109, a major goal of the Coalition to Improve Our Public Schools is to document the Need for Space in the 23 school buildings in which 46 programs are being conducted in District #4. We have begun to gather information on space utilization in our public schools and continue to listen to parents, grandparents and community leaders to put forth a platform for the use of P. S. 109.

The Coalition to Save P. S. 109 has done a great service to the East Harlem Community in saving and in now acting to preserve this beautiful structure. Ms. Gwen Goodwin's vision and personal commitment are to be commended.

Sincerely,


Blossom Martin, Co-Coordinator


Lydia Lopez, Secretary/Treasurer